

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9705

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 0850

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, CH, US, SN

SUBJECT: GOS ATTITUDES TOWARD SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS

REF: STATE 36614

1. INR REPORT'S SECTION ON SINGAPORE STRIKES US AS SUBSTANTIALLY ACCURATE. RE SECOND SENTENCE OF FIRST PARA, IT MIGHT BE NOTED THAT GOS POLICY TOWARD NORMALIZING ITS RELATIONS WITH PRC IS TO WAIT FOR JAKARTA TO RE-ESTABLISH ITS TIES WITH PEKING (STRAITS TIMES EDITORIAL), JANUARY 4, 1977).

2. RE SECOND PARA OF INR REPORT, WE BELIEVE THAT PRIME MINISTER WOULD PROBABLY PREFER TO HAVE MINIMAL IDEOLOGICAL INFLUENCE FROM EITHER PRC OR TAIWAN ON CHINESE POPULATION OF SINGAPORE, BUT AS THAT IT A VIRTUAL IMPOSSIBILITY, HE WOULD SEE TWO COMPETING CENTERS AS LESS UNDESIRABLE THAN A SINGLE ONE.

3. THERE HAVE BEEN NO RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY GOS OFFICIALS ON US-PRC NORMALIZATION. CHANGE OF EMPHASIS IN STRAITS TIMES EDITORIALS (WHICB OFTEN REFLECT OFFICIAL POLICY) ON RELATED QUESTION OF US-TAIWAN RELATIONS MIGHT BE NOTED: NOVEMBER 24, 1976-- "SHOULD TAIWAN BE CAST ASIDE, THERE WILL BE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS IN THE OTHER COUNTRIES (OF EAST ASIA), AFFECTING US CREDIBILITY AND OVERALL RELATIONS WITH NON-COMMUNIST STATES IN THE AREA."
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SEPTEMBER 8, 1977 --"DELAY (IN ACCEPTING THE INEVITABILITY OF LEAVING TAIWAN TO FEND FOR ITSELF) COULD...RESULT IN THE CHINESE LOSING PATIENCE ALTOGETHER WITH INCALCULABLE CONSEQUENCES TO BIG POWER RELATIONS. AMERICA'S INTERESTS LIE IN KEEPING CHINA FRIENDLY AND ENJOYING THE LEVERAGE THIS GIVES WITH THE RUSSIANS."

4. WE WOULD ADD THAT GOS, WHICH HAS FOR YEARS FEARED COMMUNIST

CHINESE INFLUENCE IN SINGAPORE, MORE RECENTLY HAS EASED ITS
RESTRICTIONS ON SINGAPOREANS' TRAVEL TO PRC, PARTLY BECAUSE IT
BELIEVES SUCH TRAVEL WILL DISCOURAGE PRO-PRC SENTIMENT.
HOLDRIDGE

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